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1957

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

of the

Urban Sanitary Authority

of

EAST DEREHAM

Norfolk



STAFF

Medical Officer of Health


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Surveyor and Public Health Inspector

C.McD. O'DONNELL, M.S.I.A., C.R.S.I.B.

Waterworks Superintendent

R.R. TYE



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EAST DEREHAM URBAN DISTRICT

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR 1957.

Mr. Chairman, Mrs. Aldiss and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report for the year 1957.

The estimated mid-year population for 1957 was 6,790, an increase of 80 over that of the preceding year.

VITAL STATISTICS.

98 live births, of which 4 were illegitimate, were registered during the year, and there were 82 deaths from all causes.

The birth rate, 14.43, was very much lower than last year (16.24) and also much lower than the England and Wales rate of 16.1.

There was 1 still birth, giving a still birth rate of 0.15; the England and Wales rate was 0.38.

The births comparability factor, the ratio of the national to the local fertility index, was 1.00.

The number of deaths, 82, as against 61 last year, was practically the average for the past ten years. The increase mainly occurred in the vascular lesions of the nervous system and in coronary disease. The death rate was 12.08, the England and Wales rate being 11.5.

The deaths comparability factor was 0.88.

There were 4 deaths of infants under one year of age (all under 4 weeks) giving an infantile mortality rate of 40.8, compared with the England and Wales rate of 23.0. The causes of death were prematurity 3, B.coli meningitis 1.

Infectious diseases were responsible for 8 deaths - respiratory tuberculosis (2), influenza (1), pneumonia (5).

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

347 cases of infectious diseases were notified during the year.

The vast majority of these, 273, were due to measles. This had been expected as only 3 cases of measles had been notified in the previous two years, and this resulted in a large number of non-protected children in the younger age groups. The disease was generally mild in character.

Whooping cough was also more prominent, 25 of the notifications occurring in the 5-10 year age group. The illness was generally mild in character. Four of the children notified had been previously immunised against whooping cough.

Of the two cases of food poisoning, one had definitely contracted the Salmonella infection in the Norfolk & Norwich Hospital at the time this hospital was experiencing a major outbreak of the disease. The second case, a young boy, was diagnosed as suffering from dysentery, but laboratory investigation showed that Salmonella infection was the cause of his illness - the source was not traced.

The incidence of the notifiable diseases is given in the following tables, the first giving the total notifications with the corresponding figures for the previous three years, and the second table giving the age distribution.

Disease	1957	1956	1955	1954	Notification rate per 1,000 population.	
					E.D.U.D.C.	E & W.
Scarlet fever	4	38	2	2		
Erysipelas	1	-	-	-		
Measles	273	1	2	119	40.35	14.1
Whooping cough	46	4	61	36	6.77	1.9
Pneumonia	17	18	1	5	2.50	0.73
Poliomyelitis	2	-	-	1		
Dysentery	1	7	11	4		
Food poisoning	2	3	1	3		
Puerperal pyrexia	1	1	2	3		
Total	347	72	80	173		

Disease	Age Groups												
	0-	1-	2-	3-	4-	5-	10-	15-	25-	35-	45-	55-	65-
Scarlet fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	-
Erysipelas	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Measles	3	16	27	29	35	146	13	1	-	3	-	-	-
Whooping cough	3	5	6	5	1	25	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Pneumonia	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	2	2	1	3	6
Poliomyelitis	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Dysentery	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Food poisoning	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Total	6	21	34	34	37	172	18	3	4	5	4	3	6

Tuberculosis.

During the year 4 cases were added to the register, one being an inward transfer. The comparative figures for the previous three years are:-

1956 - 7

1955 - 6

1954 - 5

The distribution of these 4 cases by age and sex is as under:-

Age Period	<u>Pulmonary</u>	
	M.	F.
15 - 25	1	1 (a)
55 - 65	1	-
65 - 75	-	1
	<hr/> 2	<hr/> 2 (a)

(a) denotes one inward transfer.

It will be noted that this is the first year no case of non-pulmonary tuberculosis has been notified.

The numbers remaining on the register were :-

<u>Pulmonary</u>			<u>Non-Pulmonary</u>			Grand Total
M.	F.	Total	M.	F.	Total	
31.12.56 18	16	34	2	7	9	43
31.12.57 20	15	35	2	4	6	41

Two deaths were due to tuberculosis.

The statistics for the County of Norfolk per 1,000 of the population in 1957 are given below with the data for East Dereham in brackets for the purposes of comparison.

Formal Notifications.

<u>Pulmonary</u>	<u>Case Rate</u>	<u>Non-Pulmonary</u>	<u>Case Rate</u>
133 (3)	0.35 (0.45)	22 (0)	0.057 (0)

Mortality figures for the same period were :-

<u>Pulmonary</u>	<u>Case Rate</u>	<u>Non-Pulmonary</u>	<u>Case Rate</u>
16 (2)	0.04 (0.30)	11 (0)	0.029 (0)

B.C.G. Vaccination.

Tuberculin testing by the Heaf method and B.C.G. vaccination were carried out again on children aged 14 years and over in all the schools in the district. The acceptances were 55%.

The results are summarised in the following table :-

Refusals.	Preliminary Test. +	Vaccinated. -	Final Test.	Not Tested.
233	85	204	203	191
				12

Dr. G.F. Barran, Chest Physician, very kindly screened 76 of the children whose preliminary skin test was positive. Three of these were recalled for more detailed examination - none showed any evidence of active tuberculous infection.

X-Ray Survey.

The Norwich Mass Radiography Unit visited Dereham from 29th January to 11th February, and 2,793 (Males 1,508, females 1,285) miniature X-ray examinations were carried out.

So far as T.B. is concerned the Unit ascertained :-

- 1 active case requiring immediate treatment.
- 2 cases requiring chest clinic observation.
- 1 case inactive post primary.
- 1 case previously diagnosed.

Cancer of the Lung.

One death was due to this cause during the year.

Causes of Death.

The causes of death are given in the following table supplied by the Registrar General.

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Tuberculosis, respiratory	-	2	2
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	1	-	1
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	1	-	1
Malignant neoplasm, breast	-	5	5
Other malignant & lymphatic neoplasms	2	3	5
Leukaemia	1	1	2
Diabetes	1	1	2
Vascular lesions of nervous system	4	6	10
Coronary disease, angina	10	6	16
Hypertension with heart disease	1	-	1
Other heart disease	2	7	9
Other circulatory disease	2	1	3
Influenza	-	1	1
Pneumonia	2	3	5
Bronchitis	2	1	3
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	1	-	1

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Nephritis and nephrosis	1	-	1
Hyperplasia of prostate	2	-	2
Other defined and ill defined diseases	5	4	9
All other accidents	1	1	2
Suicide	1	-	1
	40	42	82

GENERAL STATISTICS

Area (in acres)	...	5,313
Population (estimated mid-1957)		6,790
Rateable Value	...	£67,283
Estimated product of a penny rate		£242

MEDICAL STATISTICS

Extracts from vital statistics for the year relating to the net births and deaths after correction for inward and outward transfers as furnished by the Registrar General :-

	East Dereham		England & Wales
	1957	1956	1957
	Males	Females	Total
<u>LIVE BIRTHS</u>			
Legitimate	52	42	94
Illegitimate	2	2	4
	54	44	98

Birth rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population.

14.43	16.24	16.1
-------	-------	------

STILL BIRTHS

Legitimate	1	-	1
Illegitimate	-	-	-
	1	-	1

Still birth rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population.

0.15	0.45	0.38
------	------	------

DEATHS (All Ages).

40	42	82
----	----	----

Crude death rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population.

12.08	9.09	11.5
-------	------	------

INFANT DEATHS (Under 1 year).

Legitimate	3	1	4
Illegitimate	-	-	-
	3	1	4

Infant Mortality Rate per
1,000 live births.

40.8 27.52 23.0

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION SCHEME

The following immunisations were carried out during the year by general practitioners and the Assistant County Medical Officer.

Diphtheria Alone

	<u>Under 1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5-9</u>	<u>10-14</u>	<u>Total</u>
Primary	4	-	1	2	-	14	-	21
Reinforcing	-	-	-	-	-	49	79	128
							Total	149

Diphtheria and Whooping Cough

	<u>Under 1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5-9</u>	<u>10-14</u>	<u>Total</u>
Primary	63	7	-	-	-	-	-	70
Reinforcing	-	-	-	-	-	2	2	4
							Total	74

VACCINATIONS

Primary vaccinations showed a slight fall this year.

	<u>Under 1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>2-4</u>	<u>5-14</u>	<u>15 & over</u>	<u>Total</u>
Primary	43	-	3	3	3	52
Revaccination	-	-	1	6	19	26

POLIO VACCINATIONS

The vaccination of children born in the years 1947 - 1954 was continued and in July 1957 the campaign was extended to include children born in 1955 and 1956.

Shortage of supplies of vaccine, particularly British, was an unfortunate occurrence and this made planning and the appropriate timing of the second vaccination difficult.

In December 1957 the Ministry of Health announced that vaccination would be offered to expectant mothers, to certain other priority groups and to children over six months and under 15 years of age.

In all 819 children received a full course of two vaccinations during the year.

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 and 1948

Part 1 of the Act

1. Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health.

	Number on Register	Inspections	Number of written notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 and 6 are to be enforced by the Local Authority.		6	--	--
Factories not included in (i) in which section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	46	50	--	--
Other Premises in which section 7 is enforced by the Works Site Local Authority.	3	10	--	--
Total	54	66	--	--

2. Cases in which Defects were found.

	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector	by H.M. Inspector	No. of cases in which pros- ecutions instituted.
Want of cleanliness	--	--	--	--	--
Overcrowding	--	--	--	--	--
Unreasonable temperature	--	--	--	--	--
Inadequate ventilation	--	--	--	--	--
Ineffective drainage of floors	--	--	--	--	--

Sanitary Conveniences :

(a) Insufficient	--	--	--	--	--
(b) Unsuitable or defective	--	--	--	--	--
(c) Not separate for sexes	--	--	--	--	--
Other offences against the Act	--	--	--	--	--
	--	--	--	--	--

No prosecutions were instituted under the Acts.

The duties of Appointed Factory Doctor were transferred to Dr. O'Connor, Derham, during the year. Prior to this transfer 182 examinations under the Acts were carried out, of which 82 were for the fitness of juveniles for employment, and 20 were for individuals employed in dangerous trades (chromium plating).

HOUSING

The number of houses erected in 1957 was

1) By the Council	24
2) By private enterprise	24

The number of applicants on the list is now 186. Although this is 33 less than the number on 31st December 1956, I feel that the list should be larger, due to the failure of some applicants to return the cards to the Council which show that they still wish to be kept on the housing list.

Including flats, the Council has built 553 houses of which 144 were constructed pre-war.

In connection with the Council's slum clearance programme closing orders were made on 14 houses, bringing the total number dealt with in this way to 53.

Baxter Row had a large number of houses unfit for habitation, and the intention of the Council was to deal with this area as quickly as possible in the slum clearance programme and redevelop the area.

At the end of 1956 the Council was in possession of 38-56 and 62-68 Baxter Row, and negotiations were in progress for the acquisition of 22-36 Baxter Row. This last block was acquired by the Council in February 1957 as was also 1C. Cowper Road.

The continued high interest charges on loans for building have had a serious adverse effect on building policy. House building by the Council has been slowed down and its virtual cessation in the near future seems inevitable. Some one will have to build houses for letting at a

rent within the capacity of the general public if the Council's slum clearance programme is to be kept going.

As the Council is not at present giving improvement grants under the Housing Act, 1949 - this is subject to review by the Council - it is obvious that every year more houses in the town will inevitably fall into the category - "unfit for human habitation".

The adequate housing of the people is the big problem which the Council has to face.

Under the Rent Act 1957, ten applications for certificates of disrepair have been dealt with.

NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE ACT, 1946.

Local Health Services under Part III

53 occasional home helps were employed during the year and 21 cases were assisted in East Dereham.

Mental Health - Administration.

Mr. A. Boothman, Welfare Officer, remained in charge. 21 patients were admitted to mental hospitals, 20 of these being voluntary and 1 dealt with under Section 21 of the Lunacy Act.

Mental Defectives.

The following cases were visited and reported on periodically:-

Under statutory supervision	10
Under friendly supervision	6
On Licence	1
Guardianship	Nil
Home teaching	1

4 children attend the fortnightly Occupation Centre at the Local Health Office.

Old People's Clubs.

Two old people's clubs continue to function in the area with a combined membership of about 200.

National Assistance Act, 1948.

No cases were dealt with under this Act.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

WATER SUPPLY

Samples of water from two wells were examined by the Public Health Laboratories and in each case were found to be unfit for drinking.

One of the wells, a public pump at Etling Green, can be replaced by a piped supply and negotiations in this direction are in progress. In the other case water from the town main is being transported to the property.

Three wells in the Toftwood area have been closed and a piped supply from the mains laid to the properties affected.

SEWAGE DISPOSAL

Stage I of the reconstruction of the disposal works is completed and working satisfactorily. A recirculation plant was installed recently. If it proves satisfactory it will not be necessary to construct the additional filter bed which was envisaged in Stage II of the works reconstruction.

Main laying in the Toftwood area is proceeding according to schedule and completion is anticipated early next year.

A decision as to whether the property owners or the Council will pay the cost of house connections is still under discussion. It is essential that the issue be resolved as soon as possible so that immediate advantage can be taken of this valuable public health asset in the Toftwood area which would of course, in addition, end costly night soil collection.

Extensive maintenance repairs were carried out on the manholes in the town's main sewage system and further repairs are planned for next year.

A terrace of eight cottages in Littlefields and one house in Stanton Close were connected to the sewer and W.C's. installed. Further full closet conversions throughout the town are planned for the coming year.

Bad soakage in the Toftwood area generally caused septic tanks to overflow soon after emptying. As an extra public health precaution the Council decided to increase the number of free emptyings per year and in the main all residents took advantage of the new arrangement. Naturally the cost of the service was increased but this was satisfactorily offset by economies and reorganisation of night soil collection service.

Night soil collection in the central and outlying parts of the district has been satisfactory and few complaints were received. The number of pail closets in the district is gradually being reduced and one looks forward to the time when this service is no longer required in Dereham.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

Domestic refuse is collected weekly in the built up area of the district, elsewhere, monthly.

There was a considerable financial saving on the service in general over the whole year and apart from complaints of untidiness on the part of the collectors when emptying the refuse bins into their skips the service ran smoothly.

There have been three fires on the refuse tip during the year and from the evidence available they were not caused by spontaneous combustion or other natural causes.

The refuse tip was treated regularly to keep down flies.

CAMPING SITES

There are no camping sites in the district.

SMOKE NUISANCE

It is regrettable that more progress could not have been made in alleviating the smoke nuisance caused by the Dereham Laundry. The firm have requested permission from the Ministry of Fuel and Power to convert their boiler from coal to oil fuel but the proposal was not approved. The Council have taken the matter up with the Ministry and no doubt it will be resolved in due course.

A complaint of smoke nuisance at the Esso Depot was investigated and after experimenting with different types of fuel and methods of stoking the nuisance was abated.

Though Dereham is placed centrally in the heart of an agricultural area it has a relatively high industrial output, therefore it is essential that industrial smoke should be reduced to a minimum, otherwise the town will lose its former character and become typical of many other industrial centres.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA

The following table summarises the inspections made during the year :-

<u>Description</u>	<u>Inspections</u>	<u>Informal Notices</u>	<u>Statutory Notices</u>
Drainage	152	2	-
Factories, workshops & bakehouses	36	-	-
Slaughterhouses & butchers shops	320	-	-
Food shops	40	1	-
Cowsheds, dairies, etc.	8	1	-
Restaurants & hotels	10	-	-
Verminous & filthy premises	-	-	-
Housing	75	5	-
Nuisances	60	-	-
Infectious diseases	-	-	-
Rats & mice	52	-	-
Refuse collection	36	6	-
Nightsoil	4	1	-
Water supply	10	1	-

17 informal notices were served during the year.

DISINFESTATION AND DISINFECTION

In the past disinfestation formed a large part of the work of the Public Health Department and occupied a good portion of the report. Verminous premises appear to be a thing of the past nowadays, which is a great credit to the town. I look forward to such standards of cleanliness being the accepted principle in the country generally and the day when the Minister of Health can safely abandon the heading as a requirement in the Annual Reports on the Health of the District.

Two houses were disinfected following cases of infectious diseases.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

MILK SUPPLY

Four dealer's licences were issued authorising the use of the special designation "Tuberculin Tested" in accordance with the Milk

(Special Designation) (Raw Milk) Regulations, 1949.

Four dealer's licences were issued authorising the use of the special designation "Pasteurised" in accordance with the Milk (Special Designation) (Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk) Regulations, 1949.

One dealer's licence was issued authorising the use of the special designation "Sterilised" in accordance with the Milk (Special Designation) (Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk) Regulations, 1949.

One supplementary licence was issued for sale of Pasteurised and Tuberculin Tested milk in the district.

ICE CREAM

Five samples were taken during the year, four of which were Grade I, and one Grade II.

FOOD INSPECTION AND CONDEMNATION

Food premises were inspected under the Food Hygiene Regulations and in a number of cases the owners were required to carry out alterations and improvements as required by the regulations. Particular attention was given to personal cleanliness of the operatives and the cleanliness of the food preparation rooms in School canteens, Hotels and Cafes which are rarely seen by the general public.

Proper wrapping of open foods is becoming the accepted principle among the trade. Although no reports have been made of food being contaminated, one would like to see a more enthusiastic approach by some shopkeepers to the covering of food on display in the windows and on the counters particularly in the warmer months of the year. The filthy habits of the fly should now be common knowledge.

It is a requirement of the food regulations that persons engaged in the handling of open food shall refrain from spitting or the use of tobacco (including snuff) while so engaged. One accepts that no operative would knowingly spit in a food preparation room but I am not equally satisfied that the same control is exercised in relation to smoking and in my opinion it is equally important.

The Council cooperated with other Local Authorities in the Eastern Counties in a survey of the manufacturers and suppliers of fertilizers of animal origin and associated feeding stuffs to establish their bacterial content.

Thirty-two condemnation certificates were issued during the year covering :-

125 Tins.
30 lbs. Corned beef.
180 lbs. Ham.

MEAT INSPECTION

Meat is inspected at the slaughterhouse every day of the week with the exception of Wednesday. The standard of meat produced remains high but conditions under which it is accomplished leaves much to be desired.

Certain minor improvements have been carried out at the slaughter house and a licence is to be issued for a further year. Alternatives to the present arrangement are under consideration by the Council.

The following animals were slaughtered during the year :-

Cattle	Calves	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs
525	14	822	1572

CARCASES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED

	Cattle	Calves	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs
Inspected	525	14	822	1572
<hr/>				
TUBERCULOSIS ONLY				
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-
Carcasses in which some organ or part condemned	33	-	-	5
Percentage of numbers inspected affected with tuberculosis	7.23%	-	-	.317%

ALL DISEASES EXCEPT TUBERCULOSIS

Whole carcasses condemned	4	-	-	3
Carcasses in which some organ or part condemned	38	-	-	4
Percentage of numbers inspected affected with diseases other than tuberculosis	8.00%	-	-	.44%

REPORT OF THE MANAGER, WATER DEPARTMENT

Data for year April 1957 to March 1958.

Total yearly consumption	61,527,600
Decrease on previous year	3,441,400
Total yearly domestic water used	44,157,600
Total yearly industrial water used	17,370,000
Total number of metered supplies	137
Average daily consumption	168,568
" gallons per head per day	19
" " used by industry per day	47,589
" daily pumping hours	17
Estimated total population supplied	6,400
" " " not supplied	310

Number of houses supplied with town water :-

(a) Direct to houses	1,354
(b) By means of standpipes	200

Total estimated number of houses in Rural Area, no mains 74

Total estimated number of houses in Toftwood (mains
available but not connected) 35

These figures are estimated on an average of 3.2 persons per house.

NEW CONNECTIONS AND EXTENSIONS

36 properties and houses have been connected to the town supply.

A new submersible pump and pressure set has been installed at the Etling Green 6" bore, together with additional mains. The north and south sides of the Etling Green are obtaining water from this source. Three bacteriological samples were taken from this supply during the year, all of which were satisfactory.

NUMBER OF SAMPLES TAKEN

Bacteriological	...	15
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Results in all samples "Highly Satisfactory".

Two chemical analyses were taken direct from No.1 bore and No.3 bore, copies of same will be found at the end of the report.

HEADWORKS

No additional equipment or plant has been added during the year. The present storage of water above ground is very small being in the region of 130,000 gallons which includes 30,000 gallons of treated water in the Tower tank which is only 2 hours supply during peak demand. More storage above ground is urgently needed in view of future development in Toftwood and the Yaxham Road area.

COPY

Lincolne Sutton & Wood,
Clarence House,
6, Clarence Road,
Norwich.

Cert No. 324.I.

Lab No. 5433/W

8th July 1957.

Certificate of Analysis of Water

Sample received 26th June from East Dereham U.D.C.

Marked. No.1 Bore at Waterworks.

Appearance when received. Clear; trace rusty deposit.

Nature of Deposit. Iron compounds; chalk; silicious matter, organic
debris.

Colour. Nil.

Odour. Nil.

Reaction. Neutral.

pH. 7.2

Taste. Satisfactory.

Results of Chemical Analysis in parts per million.

Ammoniacal nitrogen. 0.12

Albuminoid nitrogen. 0.03

Nitrate nitrogen. nil

Nitrite nitrogen. practically nil.

Chlorine as chlorides. 30

Alkalinity as CaCO_3 250

OPINION

This water is of good organic quality and there is no chemical evidence of pollution. The sample contained a trace of iron, which gave rise to a rusty deposit on standing, and traces of chalk and silt were also present. The amounts were negligible, however, and in our opinion this water is fit for drinking purposes.

(Signed) Lincolne Sutton & Wood.

COPY

Lincolne Sutton & Wood,
Clarence House,
6, Clarence Road,
Norwich.

Cert No. 325.I.

Lab No. 5434/W

8th July 1957

Certificate of Analysis of Water

Sample received 26th June 1957 from East Dereham U.D.C.

Marked. No.3 Bore at Waterworks.

Appearance when received. Slightly opalescent.

Nature of Deposit. Nil.

Colour. Nil.

Odour. Nil.

Reaction. Faintly alkaline. pH. 7.4 Taste. Satisfactory

Results of Chemical Analysis in parts per million.

Ammoniacal nitrogen. 0.05

Albuminoid nitrogen. 0.03

Nitrate nitrogen. nil.

Nitrite nitrogen. 0.05

Chlorine as chlorides. 20

Alkalinity as CaCO_3 226

OPINION

This water is of good organic quality and there is no chemical evidence of pollution. The analysis differs slightly from that of the water from No.1 bore, having a lower salinity and alkalinity. In our opinion this water is fit for drinking purposes.

(Signed) Lincolne Sutton & Wood.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

A. B. Guild.

